



Recreation Passport Replaces State Park Sticker

The Recreation Passport is Michigan’s solution for funding your favorite recreation destinations, and it begins October 1, 2010.

Instead of spending \$24 for an annual motor vehicle permit or boating access permit, you will now be asked to support the Recreation Passport with a \$10 fee when renewing your vehicle registration with the Secretary of State.



Upper Tahquamenon Falls.

When you opt-in, your \$10 will do so much more than get you into state parks:

- **80%** will be used to rebuild and maintain your state parks and recreation areas
- **10%** will be directed to your local parks through grant funding
- **7%** will go toward your state forest campgrounds, pathways and non-motorized trails
- **2.75%** will support your state park cultural and historic resources
- **0.25%** will be used to educate and update you on the value of the Recreation Passport

Since 2004, Michigan State Parks and Recreation Areas have received no state tax support and are primarily funded through user fees. The Recreation Passport legislation was created to prevent drastic cuts to park and forest programs – and it will take the support of outdoor enthusiasts like you to make the idea a reality. Opt-in on every vehicle you register to support green spaces and recreation in your community and throughout Michigan.

Important Facts:

- Supporting the Recreation Passport gives you access to all 98 state parks and recreation areas, 133 state forest campgrounds, 879 miles of trails, and every state-administered boating access site in Michigan.
- Camping fees will remain in effect.
- When registering a motorcycle, the fee requested is just \$5.
- There will be a designation on your normal license plate registration sticker to indicate you have paid. Entering a park without opting-in will result in paying a fee of up to \$20 or could result in a \$100 fine.
- Out of state visitors will still pay the \$8 daily, or \$29 annual fee for park and/or boating access site entrance.

View the complete legislation at:
www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport

For more information, ask state park staff or call (517) 373-9900.

We Want to Hear From You

Hello and welcome to Tahquamenon Falls State Park. We truly appreciate your choice to support our unique park. The park managers message this year is “Contact us, we want to hear from you!”

I would like to take a moment to recognize the park staffs hard work and commitment to excellence. I am continually reminded of their commitment whenever I visit one of our clean bathrooms, walk a well-marked trail, learn from one of the educational displays, relax on a well-placed bench, or view the falls from one of the many decks. Their daily dedication to completing the routine tasks that make Tahquamenon Falls State Park a clean, safe, and enjoyable place to visit has not gone unnoticed—thank you! If you want to take a moment to recognize a job well done, or have a suggestion that may improve our facility, please contact me!

2010 has been a year of change and opportunity. Michigan’s struggling economy and state government budget woes have forced us to review our operating procedures, become even more efficient, stronger, and thus better prepared for the future. A big part of this preparation for the future is to get park supporters, such as yourself, involved in our decision making process. We want to establish a group, “Friends of Tahquamenon Falls,” to assist us in ensuring our continued success as one of the nations premier state parks. If you want to become involved, have an idea, or see a way in which we can improve the park, please contact me!

“Contact us, we want to hear from you!”

Craig Krepps
Park Manager
(906) 492-3415
kreppsc@michigan.gov



Your first stop upon arriving to Tahquamenon Falls should be the Fact Shack. Staffed daily during the summer from noon - 5 p.m., the Fact Shack contains hands on exhibits, displays and park information. The friendly interpretive staff is knowledgeable about local attractions and are always happy to answer questions to help you plan your vacation.

Contents

Special Events	p.2
Interpretive Programs	p.3
Snowshoe-Making Workshops	p.3
Park Map	p.4
Weather Alert Tower	p.6
Hunting in the Park	p.6
Recycling	p.7
Things to Do	p.7





State of Michigan
Department of Natural Resources
and Environment

Tahquamenon Falls State Park

Mailing Address

Tahquamenon Falls State Park
41382 West M-123
Paradise, MI 49768

Contact us:

(906) 492-3415
TDD: (906) 492-3812
www.michigan.gov/tahquamenonfalls
<http://twitter.com/tfallsnature>

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment is committed to the conservation, protection, management and accessible use and enjoyment of the state's environment, natural resources and related economic interests for current and future generations.

U.P. State Fair Escanaba August 16 - 22



Special Events in Paradise

Fourth of July Festivities July 4

Events include a pancake breakfast, parade, games and fireworks over Whitefish Bay. All events are held at the Paradise Community Center.

Wild Blueberry Festival August 20-22

Arts & crafts fair, unique entertainment, local food specialties and more will be offered at this annual event. The festival is held at the Paradise Community Center on M-123.

Annual Fish Boil September 4, 1:00 pm

Gather at Whitefish Point for a meal of boiled whitefish, potatoes, slaw and a beverage. Call (888) 492-3747 or go online at www.shipwreckmuseum.com for more info.

The Haunted Trail October 15-16

Come out for a scary good time! Take a walk down the haunted nature trail to witness 15 sites of terror, fun and cool effects. Located at Sawmill Creek Township Park, just north of the light in Paradise. Admission \$3 per person.

Edmund Fitzgerald Memorial Service November 10, 7:00 pm

The Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum holds an annual memorial service honoring the crew of the Edmund Fitzgerald.

2010 Special Events

Spring Roadside Cleanup

May 29, 10 a.m. – Park Headquarters

Be a "Friend of Tahquamenon" and help clean up the winter roadside garbage along M-123 between the Upper and Lower Falls. Supplies and lunch are provided. Adult supervision required for children under 14 years of age.

Hike Between da Falls

June 5, 10 a.m. – Lower Falls

Bring your hiking boots and enjoy the most popular trail in the park, the four-mile River Trail. A free shuttle will transport participants from the Lower Falls to the trailhead at the Upper Falls. The River Trail follows the winding Tahquamenon River through the old-growth forest down into the lowland conifers. It is rated moderately difficult and includes stairways, exposed roots and steep inclines. Join park staff and the Hiawatha Shore-to-Shore chapter of the North Country Trail at the Lower Falls before and after the hike to take part in activities, crafts and more.

Tahqua Trail Run

August 15 – Upper Falls

This popular 25K trail race follows the North Country Trail along the Tahquamenon River, beginning near the Rivermouth and ending at the Upper Falls. An 8K race also will take place, and a special 2K run for kids 14 and under will occur on Saturday. These races are sponsored by Great Lakes Endurance. Please register online at www.greatlakesendurance.com.

Fall Roadside Cleanup

September 4, 10 a.m. – Park Headquarters

Wilderness Canoe Race

September 11 – Lower Falls

This 17-mile professional canoe race begins at the Lower Falls and finishes at Whitefish Bay near the Rivermouth Campground. The event is hosted by the Michigan Canoe Racing Association and the Paradise Chamber of Commerce. Visit www.miracing.com for more information.

Harvest Festival

October 15-16 – Lower Falls

Participate in our annual autumn camping experience. Events include pumpkin carving, campsite decorating, hayrides, costume contests, trick-or-treating and more! Enjoy the beauty of the park during peak color season while participating in these fun events. Families and friends have made camping during Harvest Festival a tradition. Make your reservation early; this weekend books quickly.

Upcoming 2011 Events

Snowshoe Hikes & Lantern-lit Night Ski

Every Saturday in February – Upper Falls

Come out and borrow a free pair of snowshoes and participate in a guided snowshoe hike. There is also a one-mile lantern lit ski/snowshoe trail, a four-mile groomed cross country ski trail, marked snowshoe trails and a packed walking trail to view the falls without snowshoes.

Maple Sugaring

March 25 & 26 – Upper Falls

Maple sugaring has been a tradition in the eastern Upper Peninsula for generations. Come out and see how tree sap is transformed into yummy syrup! Call the park for more info (906) 492-3415.

Enjoy Free Fishing Weekends

June 12-13, 2010 and February 12-13, 2011



Fall 2009 volunteer cleanup crew



Hikers riding the shuttle bus to the Upper Falls



The home stretch of the Tahqua Trail Run



A few of the 2009 costume contest winners



Interpretive Programs

Looking for a fun way to enhance your visit to Tahquamenon? Attend a program given by a park naturalist! A full schedule of interpretive programs and guided hikes are offered throughout the summer. Get your feet wet catching aquatic critters during the River Hunt, try out a pair of binoculars during a birding walk, or sit back and enjoy an evening slideshow from the comfort of your chair. Programs are designed for adults and families of all ages.

Schedules are updated weekly. For a detailed schedule, stop by the campground offices, the host sites, the Upper Falls Fact Shack or the park headquarters. Schedules also are available online at www.mi.gov/dnrevisitorcenters.

Some examples of programs for 2010 include:

Moose on the Loose

Sit back and relax while learning all about Michigan's largest mammal during this entertaining slideshow at the Rivermouth.



Learning how to cast at the Fact Shack



Learning about sea lamprey at the Lower Falls

Outdoor Adventure

Sign up for an all-day adventure with the park interpreter. Trips include Paddling the Tahquamenon, Birding in the Backcountry, or Exploring Emerson.

River Hunt

Get down and dirty during this aquatic program. Hunt for the crayfish, insects and fish that call the Tahquamenon River their home. Be prepared to get your feet wet; foot gear is recommended. Nets are provided.

Astronomy

Clear nights at Tahquamenon present an amazing show of stars, constellations, planets and occasionally the Northern Lights. Learn how to navigate your way through the summer skies with a few handy tricks. Bring a blanket and a pillow to make yourself comfortable as we lay out on the Lower Falls parking area.

Tracks and Trails

Learn how to identify tracks that are commonly found in Tahquamenon country. Take a hike to try your ID skills and make a track to take home.

Hike Between da Falls

Join a park naturalist for a guided morning expedition along the River Trail. The four-mile hike is known for its beautiful scenery and remoteness, as well as its moderately difficult terrain. Good walking shoes are a must.

Creatures of the Night

Do you know what goes "bump" in the night at Tahquamenon? Learn about the unique adaptations nocturnal animals use to survive, and see how your senses compare. No flashlights allowed during the program!

Bear Den Hike

Don't miss the opportunity to stick your head in an old bear den! We will carpool from the Lower Falls campground office to the Clark Lake parking area and hike from there. Learn about the life history of Michigan's black bear during a one-mile hike through the wilderness.

Geocaching

Learn how to use a hand-held GPS unit to discover hidden treasure! We will go over the basics of geocaching and head out in search of "the cache." GPS units are provided, but participants are welcome to bring their own.



Adjusting the microscope at the Fact Shack

Snowshoe-Making Workshops

Back by popular demand, the Tahquamenon Falls interpretive program is pleased to offer three snowshoe-making workshops this year. The one-day workshops will take place on Nov. 6, Nov. 20 and Dec. 18 and last about eight hours. Participants weave their own set of snowshoes using nylon lacing and traditional white ash frames, while learning about the history and purpose of the different snowshoe styles. Participants are welcome to bring a friend to assist them, which can drastically reduce the total time spent weaving! Snowshoeing is a rewarding, low-cost activity that allows you to explore areas inaccessible during the summer while burning calories and staying in shape. They also make a beautiful summertime decoration on your wall. If you can walk, you can snowshoe!

Class sizes are limited and reservations are required. The registration fee includes all materials and instruction to make one pair of snowshoes, including bindings. The fee varies depending on the style of snowshoe, but is usually around \$170. For more information or to register, please call (906) 492-3415 or e-mail Theresa Neal at nealt1@michigan.gov.

Can't make it up to Tahquamenon? No worries! Workshops take place at different locations



Tasha showing off her custom-made snowshoe

throughout Michigan. Both Ludington State Park and the Hartwick Pines Visitor Center offer workshops during the fall and winter months.

Ludington State Park: (231) 843-9261
Hartwick Pines Visitor Center: (989) 348-2537

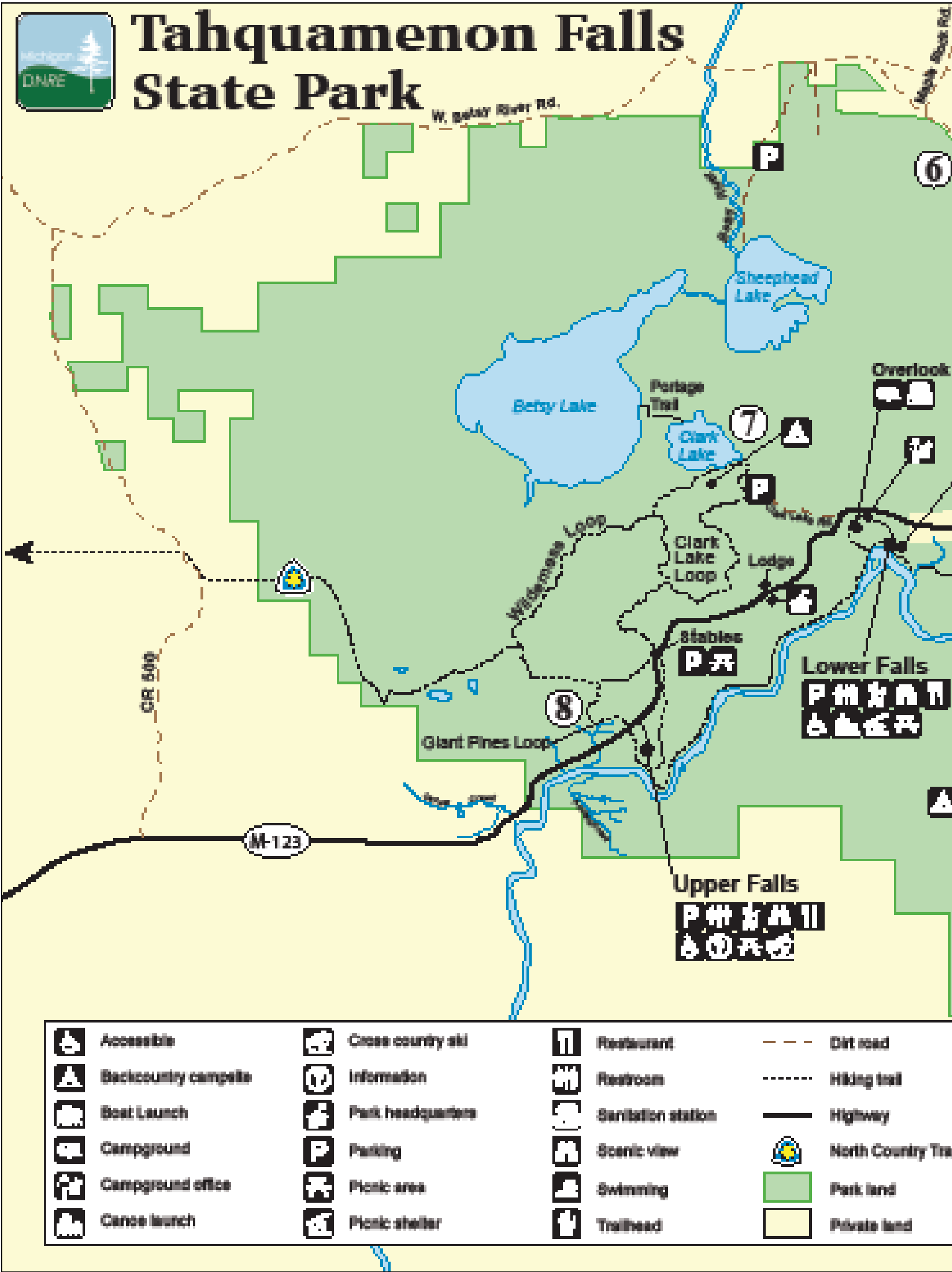
Wish List

Have you cleaned out your attic or garage recently and found some cool treasures that you aren't sure what to do with? Our interpretive program is always in need of supplies to give the best educational programs possible. If you are interested in donating your items, please contact Theresa Neal at (906) 492-3415.

We are currently in need of the following:

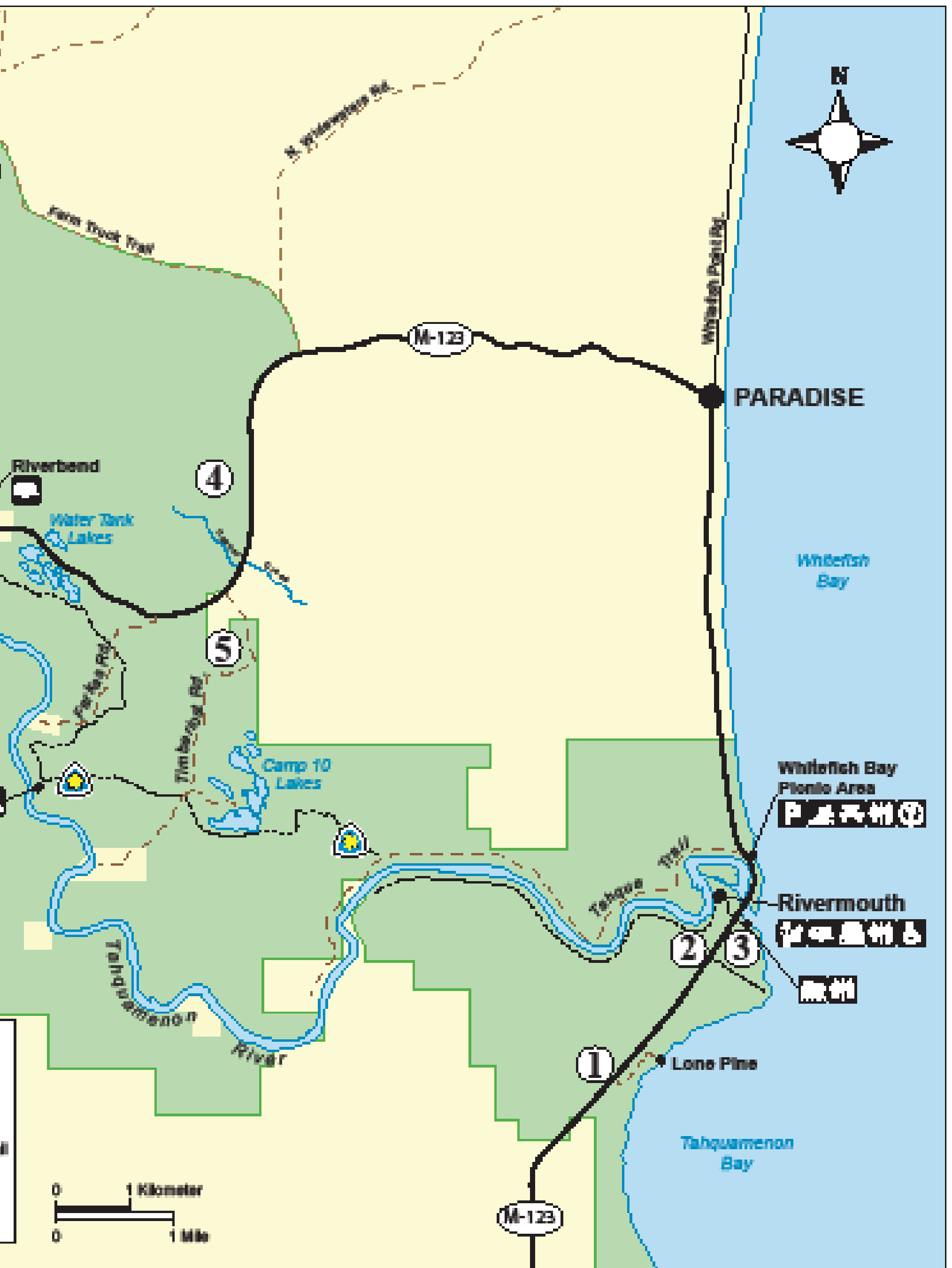
- Evaporating pan (maple sugaring)
- Cast iron kettle
- Hand-operated drill
- Yoke (to carry buckets on shoulders)
- Bull moose mounted head
- Tanned fur hides
- Fishing poles
- Snowshoes
- Cross country skis and boots
- Ski/trekking poles
- Sand box

In addition, we are looking for monetary donations to fund materials for an outdoor archery range. Archery is a sport nearly everyone can be successful at regardless of age, size or physical ability. The range would be designed to introduce school groups and visitors to the sport in a fun and safe way, including competitions and interpretive programs.



- ① **Lone Pine Access Site:** From the end of the access road, overlooking Tahquamenon Bay, you can see Emerson Island. The island was the site of a large sawmill from 1882 to 1912. This is a great place to play in the warm, shallow waters of Whitefish Bay. Early morning and late evening are the best times to look for moose in this area.
- ② **Emerson Foot Trail:** This trail passes through black spruce and shrub swamp habitat following the road that leads to the abandoned sawmill town of Emerson. It is one mile to Tahquamenon Bay.

- ③ **Rivermouth Boat Launch:** This site offers boat access into Whitefish Bay, where you may spot waterfowl, bald eagles, river otter and other wildlife. The sandy shoreline is a great place to hike and wade in the water.
- ④ **Northern Peatlands:** Sphagnum moss dominates the wetlands in this part of the park, creating what is termed a northern peatland. Moose are often seen here, along with spruce grouse, black-backed woodpeckers, pine martens and black bears.



⑤ **Timberlost Road:** This sandy forest road offers some of the park's best blueberry picking and wildlife watching. This road has loose sand, encroaching brush and two-way traffic. Drive at your own risk.

⑥ **Farm Truck Trail:** For those looking to immerse themselves into true wilderness, look no further than Farm Truck Trail. Exploring the many side-roads and two-tracks branching off Farm Truck Trail will give you the sense of being in the middle of nowhere! Make sure to bring a compass, GPS and a full tank of gas before beginning your adventure.

⑦ **Clark Lake:** The one-mile, two-track road to Clark Lake is the only road access into the Tahquamenon Natural Area. This road has loose sand and two-way traffic. Drive at your own risk. From the end of the road, follow the foot trail for ½ mile to access Clark Lake.

⑧ **Giant Pines:** Two of the largest white pines in the park are found along the Giant Pines Trail. Estimated at over 125 years old, these are true relics of Tahquamenon. Listen for the sound of the pileated woodpecker and the sweet song of the wood thrush as you walk through the old-growth forest.

The Rivermouth

Seventeen miles downriver from the hustle and bustle of the Upper and Lower Falls, the Tahquamenon River empties into Lake Superior. Here lies the peaceful tranquility of the Rivermouth. This lesser-known area within Tahquamenon Falls State Park is located five miles south of Paradise, and has a history worth repeating.



Aerial view of the Rivermouth

Native peoples first came to this region nearly 12,000 years ago. The Tahquamenon band of Ojibwa were a nomadic people, moving their camps depending on the season. During spring, families would congregate in the hardwood forests and collect maple sap to make sugar and syrup. Summers were spent fishing, planting crops, collecting fruits, nuts and wild rice, and building and repairing wigwams and canoes. As cold weather approached, the tribe would split into smaller families and move inland to hunt and trap until spring.

The area remained quiet until the 1870s, when Europeans began logging the giant white pine for its valuable timber. The mouth of the river marked the end of a long journey for the millions of logs that floated downstream during the spring flow. Alonzo Chesbrough built a sawmill in the early 1880s near the mouth of the Tahquamenon, at the end of present-day Emerson Trail. A small town emerged around the sawmill, including several homes, a post office, blacksmith shop and company store. The town was called Emerson, named after Chesbrough's friend and fellow lumberman Curtis Emerson.

In 1886, the Tahquamenon Boom Company was organized near the present-day Rivermouth Campground, with the purpose of sorting logs by their marks. The river was dredged to allow easier movement of logs, including the creation of an additional channel that runs along the northern boundary of the Rivermouth Campground.



Emerson, Michigan (ca. 1880s-1913)



Chesbrough Lumber Mill, Emerson (ca 1880s)

Today, the Rivermouth area is utilized by those who prefer the quiet and solitude the Tahquamenon River offers. From its human beginnings as a summer Native American encampment, to a thriving lumber town, the rivermouth now returns to its roots, again providing an area for summer campers. Anglers, birdwatchers, paddlers, hikers - and anyone who enjoys the sights and sounds of the outdoors - takes pleasure in this hidden gem of Tahquamenon Falls State Park.

Weather Alert Tower

In a partnership with the National Weather Service (NWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), a few state parks installed Emergency Weather Alert Systems this past fall. Tahquamenon Falls State Park was chosen, along with Muskellonge Lake State Park, due to their remote locations.

The Emergency Weather Alert System (EWAS) is designed to emit a warning alert sound when weather conditions become severe, followed by instruction on what to do. The alert system can be heard throughout the park and is powered by battery back-up in the case of power outage, which is frequent in our area.

The main operating system is located at the park headquarters, where the initial alerts are received. Tahquamenon Falls has a total of



four towers: Upper Falls Fact Shack, Overlook Campground, Riverbend Campground and Rivermouth Campground.

The EWAS is not limited to just weather alerts, it is also linked to Homeland Security and Amber Alerts, as well as local law enforcement alerts. Park staff can use the system to inform visitors of local emergencies, such as a missing person or search and rescue operation.

It is important to note that while the EWAS assists park staff by alerting visitors in advance, park rangers will still make face-to-face contact during emergencies to ensure all questions and procedures are addressed.

The EWAS is just one way that the park is improving safety for our visitors.

Storm Safety Tips

- ⚡ If lightning is occurring and sturdy shelter is not available, get inside a hardtop vehicle and keep the windows up. Avoid touching metal.
- ⚡ A tent does not offer protection from lightning. Picnic shelters, dugouts and other partially open structures are NOT safe.
- ⚡ If no shelter is nearby, find a low spot away from trees, fences and poles. If you are in the woods, take shelter under shorter trees.

Remember, if you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning!

**STATE PARK
OPEN TO
HUNTING & TRAPPING**

Many visitors are suprised when they learn that much of the park is open to hunting.

Hunting is the primary tool that biologists use to maintain a healthy population of wildlife species such as black bear, white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, coyotes and various other species. Too many individuals can lead to over-crowding, starvation and disease.

Not only do hunters play an important role in the management of many species, they also foot the bill. Hunting and fishing license fees, as well as revenue from sporting goods sales, go directly to fund biologists and other resource personnel.

Finally, hunting gives animals a healthy fear of humans. By harvesting a select number of individuals, the wildlife populations stay healthy and wild, which is good for all of us!



Photo courtesy North Carolina Wildlife Commission

Things to do

You have finally arrived at Tahquamenon Falls, now what?

Depending on how much time you have, there are a variety of activities and sight-seeing locations to keep you busy. Your first stop should be the Upper Falls Fact Shack. The Fact Shack is filled with information about the park and surrounding attractions, and the knowledgeable staff can answer your questions to help plan your visit.

Half Day

Upper Falls – At 200 feet wide and 50 feet tall, the Upper Falls is the largest waterfall in Michigan. Take a walk along the quarter-mile paved trail to the viewing areas. Climb the 93 steps down to the brink viewing platform to get an up-close look and feel the mist in your face. For those with even more energy, follow the paved trail downstream to the gorge, where 112 steps wind down to the river's edge.



Arial view of Lower Falls

Lower Falls – The entrance to the Lower Falls is four miles east of the Upper Falls along M-123. These falls are easily viewed and photographed from the paved walkway. A quarter-mile boardwalk will take you through thick coniferous forest, ending at the viewing platforms for an up-close experience. Rowboats can be rented from the concession to access the island.



Whitefish Bay Picnic Area

Two Days

River Trail – Many hikers come to Tahquamenon to tackle the infamous trail between the falls. This four-mile linear trail is rated medium difficulty due to exposed roots and hilly terrain, but ranks as the most scenic trail in the park. A shuttle is available Memorial Day – Labor Day. Check the schedule before you head out as times vary by season. Make sure to have plenty of water, a snack and bug spray along for the hike.



One of the views from the River Trail

Three or More Days

Paddle the Tahquamenon – Paddling from the Lower Falls to the Rivermouth is 17 miles, but with the slow current it is possible to paddle shorter distances and paddle back to your starting point. Canoes and kayaks are available to rent from local vendors; ask park staff for more information.

Art-in-the-Park

This year's Art-in-the-Park piece by artist Kim Dimet features the spruce grouse. The spruce grouse is a protected species in Michigan due to its scarcity. Only certain portions of the Upper Peninsula encompass its southern range, including Tahquamenon Falls State Park. Sometimes referred to as a "fool hen", spruce grouse are tame by nature and do not scare easily. They are often seen feeding near the side of M-123, and do not fly away as vehicles go speeding by.

The Art-in-the-Park program is designed to highlight the talents of Michigan artists through their depictions of Tahquamenon's natural resources. A portion of the proceeds goes to help the park maintain natural areas.

The Giclee (pronounced "zhee-clay") prints will be on display at the campground offices and gift shops, and make for a long-lasting souvenir that can be enjoyed for generations. All prints are signed, numbered and include a certificate of authenticity. They are available for purchase for \$150 at the park headquarters or online at the Michigan e-store at www.mi.gov/estore.



Stay With Us!

The park has a camper cabin available for rent in the Rivermouth Campground. The camper cabin has electricity, two bedrooms and sleeps up to eight. It is located in the semi-modern side of the campground along the river and is available for \$60 per night. Rental inquiries can be made online at www.midnrreservations.com or by calling 800-44-PARKS.



Rivermouth camper cabin.

The park also had a lodge available for rent for \$110 per night. Located along M-123 between the Upper and Lower Falls, the lodge sleeps eight and is available for rent year-round. Reservations can be made by calling the park headquarters at (906) 492-3415.



Tahquamenon lodge.



Thanks to suggestions sent in on visitor comment cards, the park will be offering plastic and aluminum recycling to our visitors this summer. Recycling containers will be located in the Rivermouth and Riverbend Campgrounds, as well as the Upper Falls and Lower Falls day-use areas. Recycling is an important part of reducing landfill waste, and the staff at Tahquamenon Falls is proud to do our part.

If you have a suggestion to improve the park, please fill out a visitor comment card. Cards are available at campground offices, host sites and the Upper Falls Fact Shack. Your suggestion could become a reality!

SHIPWRECK MUSEUM

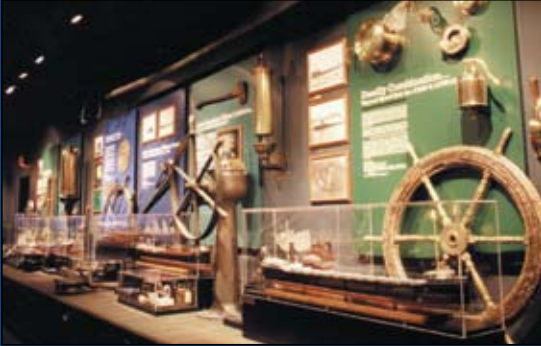
AT WHITEFISH POINT

Less than
20 minutes
North of the Falls

Step back in time & see...

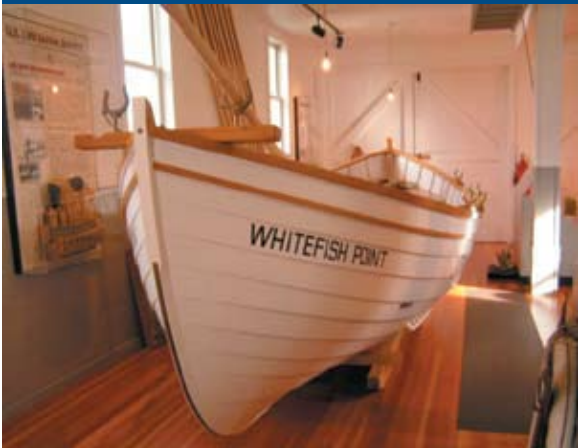
Shipwreck Legends Come to Life

- ~ Marking over 30 years since the loss of the Edmund Fitzgerald
- ~ Experience the Haunting World of Shipwrecks with Interpretive Exhibits
- ~ National Historic Site - Oldest Active Light on Lake Superior
- ~ Boardwalk - Visitors Gain Access to View Lake Superior's Shipwreck Coast
- ~ Whitefish Point Bird Observatory & Interpretive Center



VIDEO THEATER

Original Short Film on the History
of the Edmund Fitzgerald and
Raising of the Bell



Restored United States
Coast Guard Boathouse

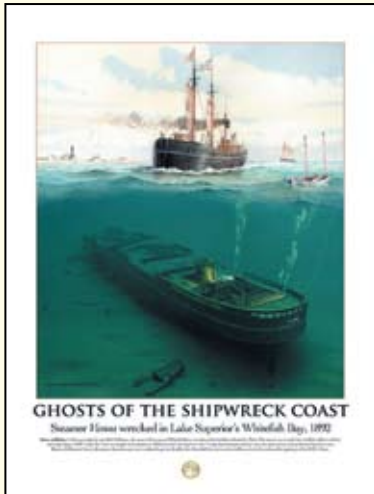
Featuring History of
Lifesaving on Lake
Superior's Shipwreck
Coast



Restored 1861 Light Keepers Dwelling



Overnight Accommodations Available
Stay in the Adaptively Restored 1923 United States Coast
Guard Lifeboat Station Crews Quarters - 888-492-3747



Shipwreck Coast Museum Store

One of the Finest Maritime Gift
Stores in Michigan

Located at Whitefish Point, less than 20 miles north of Tahquamenon Falls.
From the Upper Falls or Lower Falls Entrance take 123 East.

SHIPWRECKMUSEUM.COM • 800-635-1742